MAHATMA GANDHI

SPEAKS OF HIS

RELIGION

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GANDHI'S RELIGION

"I came to the conclusion that all religions were right and every one of them imperfect."

Quoted by C. F. Andrews in "Mahatma Gandhi's Ideas," Geo. Allen & Unwin, London. (Page 74).

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"India stands in no need of conversion from one faith to another"

Mahatma Gandhi in "Young India." April, 1931.

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"Cow protection is an article of faith in Hinduism. Apart from its religious sanctity it is an ennobling creed. I would not kill a human being for protecting a cow, as I will not kill a cow for saving a human life, be it ever so precious."

'Cow protection is the dearest possession of the Hindu heart. It is the one concrete belief common to all Hindus.

"That which distinguishes Hinduism from every other religion is its cow protection."

In "Young India," by Mahatma Gandhi, S. Ganesan, Publisher, Madras. (Pages 409, 411, 802).

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'The cow question is a big question the greatest for a Hindu. Hindus do not fulfil their trust so long as they do not possess the ability to protect the cow."

"Cow protection is one of the most wonderful phenomena in human evolution."

"Cow protection is the gift of Hinduism to the world. And Hinduism will live so long as there are Hindus to protect the cow. The way to protect (her) is to die for her."

"I have made the Khilafat cause (Mohommedan issue regarding the head of Islam) my own, because I see that through its preservation full protection can be secured for the cow."

In "Young India," by Mahatma Gandhi, S. Ganesan, Publisher, Madras. (Pages 412, 804, 805, 806).

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"They (opponents) argue that the retention of the caste system spells ruin for India, and that it is caste that has reduced India to slavery. In my opinion it is not caste that has made us what we are . . . I believe that caste has saved Hinduism from disintegration.

I consider the four divisions (of the Hindu caste system) alone to be fundamental, natural and essential . . . I am certainly against any attempt at destroying the fundamental divisions."

In "Young India," by Mahatma Gandhi, S. Ganesan, Publisher, Madras. (Page 480).

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"Varnashrama (caste) is, in my opinion, inherent in human nature . . . It does attach to birth. A man cannot change his *varna* by choice."

'Though Varnashrama is not affected by inter-dining and inter-marriage, Hinduism does most emphatically discourage inter-dining and inter-marriage between divisions. . . . It is no part of a Hindu's duty to dine with his son."

"Young India," by Mahatma Gandhi, S. Ganesan, Publisher, Madras. (Pages 802, 803).

"Marriage is a 'fall' even as birth is a 'fall'."

"Prohibition against inter-marriage and inter-dining is essential for a rapid evolution of the soul."

"Young India", by Mahatma Gandhi, S. Ganesan, Publisher, Madras, (Page 803).

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"I do not disbelieve in idol worship . . An idol does not excite any feeling of veneration in me. But I think that idol worship is part of human nature. I do not consider idol worship a sin."

In "Young India", by Mahatma Gandhi, S. Ganesan, Publisher, Madras. (Pages 801, 806-7).

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"Salvation is freedom from birth (the cycle of multitudinous rebirths) and hence death also."

In "Young India", by Mahatma Gandhi, S. Ganesan, Publisher, Madras. (Page 803).

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"I call God long-suffering and patient precisely because He permits evil in the world. I know He has no evil Himself; and yet if there is evil, He is the author of it, and yet untouched by it."

Quoted by C. F. Andrews in "Mahatma Gandhi's Ideas," Geo. Allen and Unwin, London. (Page 45).

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"Every nation considers its own faith to be as good as that of any other'

Mahatma Gandhi in "Young India", April, 1931.

"To-day they (missionaries) tell people that there is no salvation for them except through the Bible and through Christianity. It is customary to decry other religions, and to offer their own as the only one that can bring deliverance. That attitude should be radically changed. Let them appear before the people as they are, and let them try to rejoice in seeing Hindus become better Hindus and Mussalmans better Mussalmans. Do not always be trying to preach your doctrines. Christ never preached himself, or any dogma or doctrine."

Quoted by C. F. Andrews in "Mahatma Gandhi's Ideas," Geo. Allen & Unwin, London. (Page 357).

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"If instead of confining themselves purely to humanitarian work such as education, medical service to the poor and the like, they (missionaries) would use these activities of theirs for proselytizing, I would certainly like them to withdraw."

Mahatma Gandhi in "Young India," April, 1931.

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"Certainly the great faiths held by the people of India are adequate for her people."

Mahatma Gandhi in "Young India," April, 1930.

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"A new birth, a change of heart, is perfectly possible in every one of the great faiths."

Quoted hy C. F. Andrews in "Mahatma Gandhi's Ideas," Geo. Allen & Unwin, London. (Page 122).

"I cannot set him (Christ) on a solitary throne because I believe God has been incarnate again and again."

Quoted by C. F. Andrews, in "Mahatma Gandhi's Ideas," Geo. Allen & Unwin, London. (Page 66).

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'I believe in the Vedas, the Upanishads, the Puranas and all that goes by the name of Hindu Scriptures; and, therefore, in avatars (incarnations) and re-birth (*i.e.*, the cycle of births that Hinduism holds each individual goes through)."

In "Young India," by Mahatma Gandhi, S. Ganesan, Publisher, Madras. (Page 801).

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"Nothing elates me so much as the music of the Gita or the Ramayana by Tulsidas the only two books in Hinduism that I may be said to know. When I fancied I was taking my latest breath, the Gita was my solace."

In "Young India," by Mahatma Gandhi, S. Ganesan, Publisher, Madras. (Page 806).

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"I am a reformer through and through. But my zeal never takes me to the rejection of any of the essential things of Hindusim."

In "Young India," by Mahatma Gandhi, S. Ganesan, Publisher, Madras. (Page 806).

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"In it (Hinduism) there is room for the worship of all the prophets of the world."

In "Young India," by Mahatma Gandhi, S. Ganesan Publisher, Madras. (Page 807).

"I know the vice that is going on to-day in all the great Hindu Shrines, but I love them in spite of their unspeakable failings"

Quoted by C. F. Andrews in "Mahatma Gandhi's Ideas," Geo. Allen & Unwin, London. (Page 40).

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"Some call Him (God) Rama, some Krishna, others call Him God. All worship the same Spirit."

Quoted by C. F. Andrews in "Mahatma Gandhi's Ideas," Geo. Allen & Unwin, London. (Page 47).

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"There was a time when I was wavering between Hinduism and Christianity. When I recovered my balance of mind I felt that to me salvation was possible only through the Hindu religion and my faith in Hinduism grew deeper and more enlightened"

In "Young India," by Mahatma Gandhi, S. Ganesan, Publisher, Madras. (Page 473).

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"Hinduism as I know it, entirely satisfies my soul, fills my whole being, and I find a solace in the Bhagvad Gita and Upanishads that I miss even in the Sermon on the Mount."

Quoted by C. F. Andrews, in "Mahatma Gandhi's Ideas," Geo. Allen & Unwin, London. (Page 73).

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"If I could call myself, say, a Christian, or a Mussalman, with my own interpretation of the Bible or the Koran, I should not hesitate to call myself either. For then

Hindu, Christian, Mussalman would be synonymous terms."

Quoted by the "Christian Century," Chicago, Illinois.

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'I am but a seeker after truth . . . But I admit that I have not yet found it."

Quoted by C. F. Andrews in "Mahatma Gandhi's Ideas," George Allen & Unwin Ltd., London. (Page 365).

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"The issue was Christianity on one hand claimed as the one true religion, and other religions on the other, being regarded as false. In joining issue I contended that the great world religions other than Christianity professed in India, were no less true than Christianity."

Mahatma Gandhi, in "Young India," May 7th, 1931.

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"I have not yet found my Guru."

(Spiritual Teacher)

To Calcutta Missionary Conference.

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"With my known partiality for the Sermon on the Mount and my repeated declarations that its author was one of the greatest among the teachers of mankind, I could not suspect that there would be any charge against me of underrating Christianity."*

[With this compare what Mahatma Gandhi has already given as his position:

"I find a solace in the Bhagvad Gita and Upanishads that I miss even in the Sermon on

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* Mahatma Gandhi, in "Young India," May 7th, 1931.

the Mount." (*Quoted by C. F. Andrews in "Mahatma Gandhi's Ideas," page 73*)

"When I fancied I was taking my latest breath the Gita was my solace," (*In "Young India," page 806*).

"When I recovered my balance of mind I felt that to me salvation was possible only through the Hindu religion." (*In "Young India," page 473*)]

N. B.—These statements were made by Gandhi in English, word by word, as they appear. These are not translations. These quotations are made from the voluminous writings of Gandhiji. No significant statements have been intentionally omitted. Their number is sufficiently large to enable the reader to reach a just conclusion as to Mahatma Gandhi's religious belief and teachings.

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